

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Monday, May 22, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour
and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 297—Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act

S. 430—Kake Tribal Corporation Public Interest Act

**H.R. 154—Establishing a Fee System for Commercial Filming Activities on
Federal Land**

H.R. 834—National Historic Preservation Act Amendments

H.Res. 443—Centennial Raising of the American Flag in American Samoa

H.R. 1752—Federal Courts Improvement Act

**H.R. 3852—Extending the Deadline for the Commencement of Construction
of a Hydroelectric Project in Alabama**

**S. 1236—Extending the Deadline for the Commencement of Construction of
the Arrowrock Hydroelectric Project**

H.R. 1382—Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act

**H.Con.Res. 302—A National Moment of Remembrance to Honor the Men
and Women Who Died in the Pursuit of Freedom and Peace**

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following ten bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 297 authorizes the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System. It also authorizes

assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system. The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. and requires the Interior Secretary to make funds available to the system and other private, state, and federal entities. Moreover, the bill requires the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System to establish a water conservation system that utilizes practical technology and is monitored periodically. It also specifies that mitigation for fish and wildlife losses, incurred as a result of construction and operation of the water supply system, must be on an acre-for-acre basis.

Furthermore, it requires the Western Area Power Administration to meet pumping and incidental operational requirements of the water supply system during the period beginning May 1, and ending October 31, of each year, from power designated for future irrigation and drainage pumping for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program. The bill does not limit the authorization for water projects in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota or preempt State water rights. Both federal and non-federal agencies share the cost of this program. Appropriations are authorized at \$26.3 million. The bill was introduced by Mr. Thune on January 6, 2000, and the Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 17, 2000.

S. 430 amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to allow the Kake Tribal Corporation to exchange roughly 1,400 acres currently used for watershed facilities for vacant land. The legislation authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to cooperate with the tribe to create a watershed management plan that protects “lands described as a watershed, a municipal drinking water source, a source of fresh water for the Gunnuk Creek Hatchery, and habitat for black bear, deer, birds, and other wildlife.” CBO estimates that enacting this bill would not have a significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Senator Murkowski on February 22, 1999 and was reported by the House Resources Committee on January 27, 2000.

H.R. 154 directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to establish a reasonable fee for commercial filming activities on lands under their jurisdiction. The secretaries must then use the money to cover all costs (example: administrative expenses) associated with giving film, video and photography professionals access to the land. This fee does not apply to land where public photography is allowed. The legislation also prohibits filming/taping/photography in areas where such activity would cause environmental damage, disrupt public use of the land or cause health or safety concerns. Additionally, the bill requires that the secretaries create a process that will ensure timely responses to permit requests. CBO cannot estimate the amount of offsetting receipts that would be earned under the new authorities contained in H.R. 154. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hefley on January 6, 1999 and reported by the Resources Committee on March 23, 2000.

H.R. 834 amends the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1999 to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation through FY 2005. The legislation abolishes the requirement that Federal agencies use existing available historic properties before building or leasing new buildings. Other amendments in the bill are of a technical or conforming nature, this includes changing the Secretary of the Interior’s National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States grant program authority from mandatory to discretionary. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 834 would result in additional discretionary spending of nearly \$600 million over the 2000-2005 period. (About \$170 million would be spent in subsequent years.) The bill was introduced by Mr. Hefley on February 24, 1999. The bill was subsequently passed the House under suspension of the rules on September 21, 1999 and was amended and passed by the Senate on April 13, 2000.

H.Res. 443 recognizes the historical significance of the centennial raising of the American flag over the United States Territory of American Samoa. The bill also reaffirms the United States commitment to improved self-governance, economic development and expansion of domestic commerce for the United States citizens and nationals of American Samoa. The CBO estimates that H.Res. 443 will have no impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Faleomavaega *et al.* on March 16, 2000 and was reported by voice vote from the Resources Committee on April 13, 2000.

H.R. 1752 contains several provisions intended to improve the operation and administration of the federal courts system, eliminate inefficiencies, and, to the extent it is prudent to do so, reduce operating expenses. The bill affects a wide range of judicial branch programs and addresses judicial financial administration, judicial process improvements, judiciary personnel administration, benefits and protections, and Criminal Justice Act amendments affecting the federal judiciary. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1752 would cost \$186 million for FY2000-2004 subject to appropriation of the necessary funds. Direct spending would be increased by about \$20 million in FY 2001, but in subsequent years any effect on direct spending and receipts is negligible. The bill was introduced by Mr. Coble on May 11, 1999 and was reported from the Judiciary Committee reported the measure by voice vote on July 27, 1999.

H.R. 3852 will extend for three consecutive two-year periods the time in which a company licensed to begin construction of a hydroelectric dam in Alabama. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will grant the extension at the request of the licensee. The extension will take effect at the end of the current period required for commencement of construction. The bill was introduced by Mr. Demint on March 8, 2000. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3852 will have no net effect on the federal budget.. The bill was introduced by Mr. Demint on March 8, 2000 and reported by voice vote from the Commerce Committee on May 17, 2000.

S. 1236 extends for five years the time in which the contracted company begins construction of the Arrowrock Hydroelectric Project in Idaho. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will grant the extension at the request of the licensee. The time period is extended until March 26, 2005. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1236 will have no net effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Senator Craig on June 17, 1999. The Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 17, 2000.

H.R. 1832 is designed to protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers on an interstate basis by preventing certain exploitative, oppressive, and unethical business practices. Additionally, the bill helps state boxing commissions in their efforts to provide more effective public oversight of the sport. The bill amends the 1996 Professional Boxing Safety Act (*P.L. 104-272*) to establish certain minimum requirements for contracts between boxers and their promoters and managers. In particular, it limits exclusive promotional rights to a maximum of 12 months and prohibits a promoter or a sanctioning organization from requiring a boxer to grant further promotional rights in order to fight in a mandatory bout. As amended by the Senate, the bill would similarly prohibit commercial broadcasters from imposing coercive contracts on boxers. The bill also prohibits promoters from having a financial interest in the management of a boxer, and vice versa, although only for boxers who fight over 10 rounds. Furthermore, it establishes objective and consistent written criteria for the ratings of professional boxers and requires any change in a Top-10 boxer's rankings to be made available on the Internet.

The bill also mandates that judges and referees must be certified and approved by state boxing commissions and disclose their sources of compensation for participating in fights. The bill also directs that unsportsmanlike

conduct be added to the list of suspendable offenses. The measure directs the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) to develop and approve guidelines on boxing contract requirements, uniform rules, and rating criteria. Finally, the bill reduces the record-keeping burden on the states by extending boxing licenses from two years to four years. CBO estimates that H.R. 1832 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Oxley on May 17, 1999, and the Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice-vote on September 29, 1999. The Education & Workforce Committee discharged the measure on November 4. The Senate passed H.R. 1832 by unanimous consent on April 7, 2000.

H.Con.Res 302 calls on the people of the United States to observe a National Moment of Remembrance to honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace. A National Moment of Remembrance each Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m., local time, would provide the people of the United States an opportunity to participate. Furthermore, the resolution requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a National Moment of Remembrance. The bill was introduced by Ms. Rohrabacher on April 11, 2000 and was not considered by a House Committee.

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H.R. 4392 authorizes appropriations for the intelligence activities of 11 federal agencies including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The funding levels and personnel ceilings for most programs are outlined in a classified annex to the committee report, which members may view at the Select Committee on Intelligence in H-405 in the Capitol. CBO estimates that enactment of the unclassified position of the bill will result in \$144 million in federal spending over the FY 2001-2005. The bill affects direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The Select Committee on Intelligence ordered H.R. 4392 reported by a vote of 12-0 on May 10, 2000.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports passage of this measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 4392 at press time:

Messrs. Roemer, Moran (VA), Smith (WA), and Mr. Blumenauer will offer an amendment to require the Director of Central Intelligence to submit a report to Congress not later than February 1 of each year containing an unclassified statement of the aggregate appropriations for U.S. intelligence activities for each preceding fiscal year. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915.*

Mr. Traficant may offer an amendment mandating that no amounts authorized in this act may be used to enter into, renew, or carry out a contract with any party who has been found to violate the “Buy America Act” by the head of any intelligence agency or Department. *Staff Contact: Dan Blair, x5-5261*

Mr. Traficant may offer an amendment requiring the Director of the CIA submit a report to Congress that updates and revises the report mandated by last year’s Intelligence authorization (*P.L. 106-120*) that details the effects of economic espionage against the United States. *Staff Contact: Dan Blair, x5-5261*

Mr. Traficant may offer an amendment that requires the Director of Central Intelligence to report within

60 days after enactment on whether the goals and policies of the People's Republic of China constitutes a threat to the national security of the United States. **Staff Contact: Dan Blair, x5-5261**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #14, May 19, 2000.

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